

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 08676 161647Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 SS-15 NSC-05  
L-03 DHA-02 INRE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PRS-01  
PA-01 USIE-00 SCA-01 /048 W  
-----161656Z 095244 /46

O 161627Z JUN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8810

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 8676

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, CASC, UR, US (TOTH, ROBERT), CSCE  
SUBJECT: TOTH CASE: FINAL EMBASSY PROTEST

1. EMBASSY PLANS TO DELIVER THE FOLLOWING NOTE OF PROTEST  
TO MFA ON JUNE 17 AT SCHEDULED APPOINTMENT OF DCM WITH  
MFA USA DIVISION DEPUTY CHIEF KOMPLEKTOV (11:00 AM. LOCAL  
TIME).

2. BEGIN TEXT: THE EMBASSY OF THE USA REFERS TO THE  
PROTEST DELIVERED TO THE MFA ON JUNE 14 CONCERNING THE  
DETENTION OF ROBERT TOTH, CORRESPONDENT FOR THE LOS  
ANGELES TIMES.

IN SPITE OF THAT PROTEST, THE HARASSMENT AND ATTEMPTED  
INTIMIDATION OF MR. TOTH DID NOT CEASE; ON THE CONTRARY  
IT WAS INTENSIFIED. MR. TOTH WAS TOLD HE COULD NOT  
DEPART MOSCOW AND WAS INTERROGATED FOR TWO DAYS BEFORE  
HE WAS FINALLY NOTIFIED ON JUNE 16 THAT HE WAS NO LONGER  
REQUIRED FOR INTERROGATION AND FREE TO DEPART THE USSR.

THE EMBASSY STRONGLY PROTESTS THE UNACCEPTABLE  
BEHAVIOUR OF THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES WHO HAVE ATTEMPTED  
TO PREVENT MR. TOTH FROM CARRYING OUT HIS APPROPRIATE  
PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AS AN ACCREDITED JOURNALIST.  
MR. TOTH'S ACTIVITIES IN THE USSR HAVE BEEN THE NORMAL  
ONES OF ANY RESPONSIBLE JOURNALIST, AND HAVE NOT  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MOSCOW 08676 161647Z

BEEN INCOMPATIBLE WITH HIS STATUS AS A CORRESPONDENT  
ACCREDITED TO THE USSR. THE EMBASSY THEREFORE  
REJECTS THE ALLEGATIONS MADE BY THE MFA ON JUNE 14 OF  
IMPROPER BEHAVIOR BY MR. TOTH, AND PROTESTS AS  
UNWARRANTED AND UNJUSTIFIED HIS BEING INTERROGATED AND  
PREVENTED FROM DEPARTING MOSCOW. THE EMBASSY ALSO  
STRONGLY PROTESTS THE REFUSAL OF MR. TOTH'S INTERROGA-

TORS TO ALLOW A CONSULAR OFFICE OR LEGAL COUNSEL  
TO BE PRESENT.

THE EMBASSY NOTES THAT THE ACTIONS OF THE  
SOVIET AUTHORITIES AGAINST MR. TOTH ARE DIRECTLY  
CONTRARY TO THE LETTER AND SPIRIT OF THE FINAL ACT  
OF THE CSCE. THE EMBASSY REITERATES THAT SUCH  
ACTIONS ARE NOT IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF NORMAL  
U.S.-USSR RELATIONS. IN THIS CONNECTION, THE  
SOVIET GOVERNMENT MUST BE AWARE OF THE UNFAVORABLE  
PRESS COVERAGE WHICH THE INTERROGATION AND DETENTION  
OF MR. TOTH HAS ELICITED FROM HIS JOURNALISTIC  
COLLEAGUES, AND THE NEGATIVE REACTION FROM THE WHITE  
HOUSE, THE CONGRESS AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

FINALLY, WE WISH TO REMIND THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT  
THAT, IN CONNECTION WITH THE REGULAR DEPARTURE OF MR.  
TOTH, THE VISA REQUEST FOR MR. TOTH'S REPLACEMENT HAS  
BEEN PENDING FOR OVER ONE MONTH, AND WE EXPECT  
THAT THE VISA WILL BE GRANTED WITHOUT FURTHER DELAY.  
END TEXT.

TOON

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** TEXT, DETENTION, DIPLOMATIC NOTES, DIPLOMATIC PROTESTS, JOURNALISTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 16-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977MOSCOW08676  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770215-0436  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** MOSCOW  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t19770650/aaaabrxx.tel  
**Line Count:** 82  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 8dfd067c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 17-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2129891  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** TOTH CASE: FINAL EMBASSY PROTEST  
**TAGS:** PINT, CASC, UR, US, CSCE, (TOTH, ROBERT)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/8dfd067c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009